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The Common Cause

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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1]*

Notes and News.

The Women of the Royal Air Force.

The conditions of women in the three auxiliary corps, in which they are for the first time given the opportunity of serving their country in something the same way in which the men of the fighting forces serve it, is naturally a subject of deep interest to the public and especially to other women. In this connection some anxiety has been felt about the constitution under which the W.R.A.F. is to work, and especially as to the part assigned to women in the administration of the corps. We are glad, however, to be able to report, on the authority of Women's Service (which has been making enquiries about this matter), that the arrangements now appear to be very good. The W.R.A.F. is controlled by the Air Ministry in the same way in which the W.A.A.C. is controlled by the War Office and the W.R.N.S. by the Admiralty. This means that the general administration of the corps recruiting, provision of accommodation, rations, engineering and ordnance service, training movements, posting records, official publications, statistics, &c., are under the Air Ministry. But all questions concerning welfare inspection, discipline, selection of officers, medical boards, leave, promotion, &c., are definitely allocated to the women's side of the organisation. The Commandant of the Corps has direct access to the Master-General of Personnel, who is the member of the Air Council responsible for all *personnel*. The Selection Board consists of three Chief Women Officers of the W.R.A.F. and a representative of the Ministry of Labour Employment Department. The Board consists entirely of women. Inspection of hostels is to be carried out by women officers, and no occupation of hostels will be permitted until these officers have approved them. It is intended to post a woman officer, who will be in charge of the women, to every Royal Air Force unit. Selection of both officers and members, and their subsequent care, training, discipline, and general management is entirely in the hands of the Commandant and her Staff of women officers. These arrangements are very satisfactory, and will, we think, encourage recruiting of the right kind of young woman for the corps. The successful future of the Women's Royal Air Force is a matter of deep interest to all of us, and our readers will, we believe, be glad to know about the conditions.

Wings for the Penguins?

In the course of a speech at a demonstration of the Women's Land Army, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Royal Naval Service, and the Women's Royal Air Force at Sheffield, on June 3rd, Mr. G. H. Roberts, Minister of Labour, said that later on it was proposed to have women aviators in the Government service. These are interesting tidings, and we look forward to the time when women aeronauts will be as common as women motor drivers are now.

Women Candidates for the Dutch Parliament.

There is to be a General Election in Holland on July 3rd, and twenty-two women are taking part in it as candidates. Apparently there has been some apprehension lest this is a sign of an attempt to form a woman's party, but Holland is now reassured, as these women have been nominated by nine different parties, and so, even if they were all elected, they would not materially disturb party balance. To British women, the fact that women candidates have been nominated in such numbers and by so many parties must be of the greatest interest. It is proof positive that women's suffrage in practice is, as in theory we have always proclaimed it to be, not a party question. It shows that women's opinion is not a homogeneous mass, to be captured by the cleverest political charlatans, and that appreciation of the value of women's experience is something more than a party parrot-cry—is, in fact, the considered opinion of men of all shades and varieties of opinion.

Women's Suffrage in Hungary.

We regret to read in this week's Press that the Franchise Committee of the Hungarian Parliament has rejected the Women's Suffrage proposals of the Hungarian Electoral Reform Bill by eleven votes to nine. At present we are unable to state how serious is this check to the cause of Women's Suffrage in Hungary. We hope, however, to ascertain full particulars of the position, and to publish the facts in next week's COMMON CAUSE.

The Suffragists of the Empire.

Very great interest is being aroused this week by the splendid series of meetings included in the third Biennial Conference of the British Dominions' Suffrage Union. On Tuesday, Mrs. Fawcett presided, and a resolution was carried that in the event of an Empire Federation being formed equal suffrage for men and women should be one of its basic principles. We shall publish a report of the most important parts of the Conference next week.

Divorce Law Reform.

Everyone knows that Divorce Reform proposals are in the air, but most people are somewhat hazy as to how far these proposals have crystallised. Actually the position is as follows. A Divorce Reform Bill has been drafted and is expected to be introduced very shortly into the House of Lords by Lord Sydenham. It proposes the granting of divorce after five years officially recognised separation—*i.e.*, after five years' judicial or magisterial separation or separation by deed, but not after five years' unofficial separation or five years' desertion of a wife by her husband. This excludes sixty per cent. of the separations in the country. The Bill is considered unsatisfactory by the Divorce Law Reform Union, which advocates divorce after three years' separation of any kind and for any reason, including lunacy and desertion. We have been recently asked for the address of the Divorce Law Reform Union. It is 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

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The Education Bill.

In those first breathless days when the god of war was let loose upon the European world, the social reformer cried that all was lost; that murder and slaughter occupied the field, and that social reform had been pushed back far out of sight. And so indeed it seemed, for economy in all but war expenditure became the rule. First and foremost it was practised in education, while in many places regulations as to school attendance and the conditions of child employment were relaxed. Who among the civilian population of England have worked harder in proportion to their strength than the children who have been taken out of school for agricultural employment, or who have worked long hours in addition to attending school? The lives of many of these children have been as assuredly maimed as the lives of those taking part in actual fighting, for they have lost opportunities of education and of training for good employment, and worst of all, they have lost their health.

But at the close of the third year of war a change in public opinion was seen, and in the course of the fourth year it has grown. Is it that men's minds can no longer endure the thought of all the tragedy and horror of to-day without some point on which to fix their hopes, something to strive for beyond the art of killing? Whatever it may be, on all sides it is said that a better England must come forth, and changes and improvements in legislation are being planned on all sides. Foremost among the projected reforms is that of education, and with it the better regulation of child employment. Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, conducted during the summer and autumn of 1917 a campaign on behalf of his Education Bill which helped largely in the growth of this interest. That Bill, introduced in August, 1917, was withdrawn owing to the opposition aroused by the changes proposed in educational administration. A new Bill was introduced which modified these, but retained the clauses regulating child employment, and introduced compulsory continuation classes practically as first proposed. A Bill was also introduced for Scotland, where educational administration is independent and moves on somewhat different lines.

In a Parliament not only occupied with the greatest war in history, but incidentally with electoral reform and other home matters, it was not to be expected that much progress could be made with either Bill, and neither passed beyond its first reading. In the new session which opened after Christmas, the English Bill was introduced once more, and is now in the Committee stage in the House of Commons. The Scotch Bill has not yet been re-introduced, and it is doubtful whether time will be found for it at all. In any case, however, the introduction of these Bills has served to focus attention on educational failings and to promote discussion on necessary reforms.

The clauses in the English Bills which regulate Child Labour have remained substantially the same in each Bill introduced. First of all the English Bill forbids all exemptions from attendance at day school under fourteen years of age. Thus the practice followed in Lancashire and parts of Yorkshire of allowing children to work half-time in the woollen and cotton mills and to attend school the other half-day will be abolished. This reform is long overdue, and it is satisfactory to find that it is being accepted as necessary by some of the employers and operatives in these counties. About 30,000 children between twelve and fourteen years of age have been so employed. The Bill further proposes to give local education authorities the power to make school attendance compulsory by local bye-law to fifteen years of age, and to allow children to leave school at the end of each term only, instead of on the day of reaching fourteen as at present.

So far there has been no minimum age below which employment, so long as it does not interfere with school attendance, is forbidden. The Bill forbids all employment under twelve years of age and all employment of children between twelve and fourteen years of age before the close of school hours on school days, thus abolishing before-breakfast and dinner-time employment. Employment of children under fourteen is forbidden on any day after 8 p.m. or before 6 a.m., but beyond this there is no limit to the total hours of employment on school holidays, Saturdays and Sundays. This must still be fixed by local bye-laws. Street trading is forbidden for all children under fourteen years of age. In the new Bill the regulation of performing children under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904, is correlated with the above regulations.

There are two other useful clauses in the Bill. Local authorities (County and Town Councils) have under the Employment of Children Act, 1903, power to make bye-laws regulating the hours of work and conditions of child employment in England and Wales. In the pressure of municipal and other business,

the child-worker has in some instances been overlooked, especially since the outbreak of war. The Bill proposes to transfer this power to local education authorities, who naturally will have the interest of the child closer at heart. In Scotland they already have this power. The Bill also proposes to give the local education authority power, on a report of the school medical officer, to prohibit or attach conditions to any employment which is prejudical to the child's health or physical development, a power which will do much to stop the unfortunate effects which have resulted from physical strain at too tender an age.

But the proposals which excite most interest and discussion are those which introduce a system of attendance at day continuation classes for young persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age. The need for educational control of adolescents has long been recognised by social reformers and educationalists, and private Bills have been introduced in previous years to deal with this question, but have never reached the final stage in the House of Commons. A Government measure now for the first time boldly tackles the matter. All young persons under eighteen years of age are to attend classes for a total of 320 hours in the year between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. The exact arrangements under which the hours are to be made up can be fixed by the local education authority to suit local employment conditions. After five years the Board of Education is to have power to increase the number of hours after giving due notice in Parliament. In Scotland local education authorities have had power since 1908 to enforce attendance at evening continuation schools, a power which has not been very widely used. In England, under the new Bill, the local education authority may require two hours attendance off work on any day, in addition to the time of attendance at class, in order that the boy or girl may be fit to profit by the education, but no limit is fixed to the total hours of work and class together. Penalties (fines) for non-attendance are enforced on the employer, the parent, and the boy or girl. Exemption from attendance is granted to those over fourteen when the Act comes into force, to those who are being otherwise suitably educated, and to those who have attended suitable schools full time to sixteen years of age. Provision is made for the medical inspection of scholars at Continuation Schools, and for the establishment of holiday or school camps, centres for physical training, school swimming baths, &c., in connection with the classes.

At the time of writing the House of Commons in Committee has dealt with the Bill up to Clause 10. The discussions showed less opposition to Clause 8, which raises the school age and abolishes half-time employment, than was generally expected. All the vital principles of the Bill have been accepted—compulsory attendance up to fourteen (or fifteen, at the discretion of the local authority), the abolition of half-time, and the establishment of compulsory day Continuation Classes.

The consideration of Clause 10 has not yet been completed, and it is to be hoped that an amendment restricting the total number of hours of employment and school attendance may be introduced at a later stage.

In the course of the discussion on Clause 8 an interesting amendment, proposed by Mr. Whitehouse, was accepted. The House agreed to omit the words which would have authorised local authorities to differentiate between boys and girls in requiring school attendance up to fifteen

The question of maintenance allowances for children from fourteen to fifteen is to be discussed again when the financial clause (38) is reached. There seems to be a strong section of opinion in the House in favour of giving these allowances, and it is likely that an urgent demand from women's organisations throughout the country might influence the decision on this question.

Whether the English Bill will pass through during this Parliament it is impossible to say. Discussion on unimportant matters has already hindered its progress. It is to be hoped that Clause 10, which deals with Continuation Classes, will be reached this week, but the opposition of certain groups of manufacturers, particularly those in Lancashire, will prolong the debates. It will be a national disaster if the passing of a Bill which opens the way for educational progress is prevented.

Legislation and the Social Problem.

BY A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

The social problem is much too complex to be dealt with satisfactorily by mere legislation. It cannot be solved by any sudden and hastily-devised remedy; it is too old and too deep-seated for that. Still less can it be got rid of by imposing penalties, however heavy, on people whose state of mind and body is largely the result of a long evil tradition and wrong social conditions. To solve the social problem (and I believe it can be solved) a different and nobler education is needed, better housing conditions, higher wages for women, the disappearance of all legal or social suggestion that they are on a lower level than men, and a more reverent attitude towards physical life with its manifestation in sex. These things are not won in a year or two! They cannot be acquired by the simple expedient of passing a Bill through Parliament. They could, I believe, be done in a couple of generations, but that is no doubt the estimate of an optimist.

In the meantime, the social problem is upon us. The present generation is suffering from the bad heritage of the past, and those who feel some sense of responsibility for them cannot be satisfied to say that future generations can be saved. They want to save now if it is possible. But is it possible? One can never do *much* quickly: can one do anything at all? That is what I want to have discussed.

A year ago, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, on a deputation to the Home Secretary, urged that the communication of venereal disease should be penalised, their spokesman being Dr. Helen Wilson. I was not present, but I did not then understand, nor do I now understand, that the Association (of whose Executive Committee I am a member) held that immorality was a negligible matter compared with the communication of disease: I understood it to hold that *legislation* cannot concern itself with the former, but can do something about the latter. I think myself that this is probably sound.

A few weeks ago proposals were made in some quarters to reintroduce Clause V. of the old Criminal Law Amendment Bill, with certain modifications. The clause in question makes it an offence for any person knowingly suffering from venereal disease to have sexual intercourse, or to solicit to intercourse, with another person. It was proposed to strike out the part referring to solicitation and to insist on the evidence of more than one witness. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene also demanded that no conviction should be made without the sworn evidence of the injured party, given in court. (In the case of a child of tender years, the parent or responsible guardian must appear.)

To this, on further consideration, it seems to me that it would be necessary to add the raising of the age of consent for both sexes to eighteen, so that no one below that age would come under penal legislation at all. Young people should, I believe, be dealt with, when necessary (*i.e.*, when they were guilty of such offences as showed them to be insufficiently guided and protected at home), under some such system as that administered by Mr. Judge Lindsey in the children's courts in San Francisco.

Moreover, the injured party would have to prove that sexual intercourse had taken place, and must give sworn evidence. If the charge was not sustained, the accuser would then be open to a counter-charge of perjury, and merely spiteful or frivolous charges would hardly be made under such a penalty.

Against these proposals it is contended (1) that, under such conditions, very few people would bring a charge, and still fewer be able to prove it; (2) that it would operate only against women; (3) that it would in practice reintroduce the old C.D. Acts.

I submit that, with regard to (1) the fact that an offence is difficult to prove, and could not be proved where intercourse has been utterly promiscuous, should not militate against its being an offence when it is proved. Wives already sometimes get separation or even divorce on the ground that such an offence has been committed against them: therefore it is clear that in some cases the charge will be both made and sustained.

(2) That this objection is based on the assumption that women would be proceeded against for solicitation. One critic writes to me:—"You know you are not going to get the average magistrate to convict men or boys of soliciting, or police to charge them." Another describes the intense bitterness felt by girls convicted of solicitation and then examined for venereal disease. But the proposals outlined above *expressly exclude the case of*

solicitation (on the grounds that it *would* be worked only against women, and is in any case an unprovable and indefinable offence): and there is no compulsory medical examination.

This brings me to (3), on which I submit that the fundamental wrongness of the Contagious Diseases Acts lay in their application to one sex, and one section of that sex only—*i.e.*, prostitutes; and in the outrage inflicted on the persons of women by a compulsory medical examination. The proposals here described apply not to prostitutes only, or to women only, but to all adult persons: and there is no enforced medical examination. I would further point out that a medical examination, if it took place, could not possibly prove the guilt of the accused, since the fact that he or she was diseased, would not prove that they had exposed others to infection—the only point on which the accused is charged. The really difficult point seems to me to lie here: what would the magistrate accept as evidence? Would a medical examination be an implied necessity, if not an openly stated one? Is diagnosis too difficult to be "evidence," if the accused chooses to establish her innocence by medical examination? We have been led to believe that it is not difficult in the case of syphilis, but is very difficult in the case of gonorrhœa. Is it so difficult as to be, within a reasonable time, impracticable? These are the points on which the future of any legislation proposed seems to hang. And to explain my own position in the matter—since it has been a good deal, and somewhat angrily, misunderstood—I should like to say that I believed the proposals I have here described had the support of the woman doctor, to whose opinion on this difficult question I attach more weight than to any other single opinion in the country—Dr. Helen Wilson; and of another distinguished medical woman, who is a vice-President of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene; besides that of the Executive Committee itself. Every one has a right to change their mind, and I do not complain that so many minds have been changed on this extraordinarily difficult question. I do complain a little, and without undue peevishness, that it would have been courteous—may I say it would have been barely just?—of people who had so largely helped me to make up my mind to a certain course, had they let me know that they had changed their own? The most powerful advocacy of the proposed penalisation of the communication of venereal disease that I have yet seen lies before me now in the form of a leaflet by Dr. Helen Wilson, published by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in 1917, and containing the following words:—

To sum up, I maintain:—

"(1) That the knowing or negligent transmission of venereal disease should be punished like other offences against the person.

"(2) That the existence of such a statute would have a powerful deterrent effect.

"(3) That in certain cases it would be possible to get the kind of proof which now satisfies the Divorce Court, and especially in those cases where the wrong is most cruel and heartless.

"(4) That the medical examination of the accused would not be necessary to prove the charge. The production by the defendant of a doctor's certificate of health is one of several possible lines of defence, and is a different thing from compulsory examination."

Dr. Wilson will forgive me for quoting an opinion she has, on further consideration, felt bound to change: she must also forgive me if I found her leaflet very convincing, especially as I did not know of the change.

My object now is solely to have these proposals further discussed. We all agree that they do not and cannot solve the great problem: can they do anything at all? Can they do it without incurring greater dangers than they seek to avert?

One last word. It has been suggested that the communication of venereal disease should be made punishable as between married persons only, on the grounds that others run risks when doing what they know to be wrong. I do not believe this distinction to be possible. You cannot make a certain act a penal offence, and then say it is not an offence if it is committed against a person whose action you do not approve. If a murder is committed, the law cannot consider whether the murdered person is a saint or a sinner, or give permission for murders to take place so long as the murderer is careful to select people who are doing what they know to be wrong, and to omit all who can produce a certificate of respectability from vicar or registrar. It is the same with the communication of venereal disease. Those who are in danger are not only wives, not only husbands, but boys taken away from home and all its purifying influences, swept into the Army at eighteen, often going through "a hell of loneliness and temptation"; girls, legally responsible for themselves at sixteen, often far from home too, overworked, overexcited, lonely, and seeing the prospect of marriage, home, and children, destroyed by the massacres of a war for which, God knows, they are not responsible. If there is no protection which we can give them by wise and safe-guarded legislation, let us abandon the attempt: but do not let us say, as has been said to me repeatedly during the last few weeks—and greeted again and again with applause—"they deserve no protection: they are doing what they know to be wrong."

Women's Rations.

By C. M. Murrell, M.D., B.Sc. London.

Much discussion has been aroused by the difference in extra rations allowed to men and women doing extra hard work.

Women at such a time as this are not making a demand for more liberal treatment than they are at present receiving, as a question of abstract right, but emphatically only because the nation needs all its able-bodied people of both sexes kept at the highest level of good work, and there are no sufficient scientific data to show that women can do the same work as men on less food.

There are three groups of women whose needs require special consideration:—

1. The adult woman worker;
2. The adolescent girl;
3. The expectant mother.

The nursing mother under the present system can have the additional half ration which is issued to her infant. Her case has, therefore, been dealt with by the authorities.

1.—Rations for the Adult Woman Worker.

Most of the scientific investigations which have been made on the amount of energy dissipated by the human machine during work, have been made on groups of men, such as manual labourers, soldiers, and medical students. There are practically none dealing with groups of women. The following reasons are adduced for refusing additional rations for hard work to women:—

(*a*) Smaller weight of the average woman;
(*b*) The greater tendency to fat in women;
(*c*) More economical machinery of the woman's organisation.

(*a*) *Smaller Weight of the Average Woman.*—Unfortunately, we are even unaware of how much less the average woman weighs than the average man. The difference used to be:—man: woman = six: five; but there is reason to doubt whether this difference has been fully maintained in recent years.

(*b*) *The Greater Tendency to Fat in Women.*—Even if a woman weigh as much as a man, the weight in her case is likely to be due to a large proportion of fat than in the more muscular man. The difference, however, would probably not be great when it is remembered that the men and women who are being compared in this group are doing identical work, and cannot, therefore, be markedly different in muscular output: that the women are drawn from among the strongest of their sex, whereas the majority of the men are not presumably in their full physical vigour, some being past their prime and others in a low physical category.

(*c*) *The Greater Economy in the Woman's Organisation.*—Here again the evidence is meagre, but seems to indicate that the organisation of the woman differs from that of the man, showing a greater tendency to conserve its energy. This would not be surprising in view of the differing physiological functions of the two sexes and the great need in the woman for a large storage of energy in preparation for pregnancy..

The amount in this case is also not known.

The lack of scientific research hitherto undertaken into the problems of woman's working life is further shown by the fact that the amount of extra nourishment required by her to balance the monthly loss of menstruation seems nowhere to be computed. It can hardly be imagined that the tissue lost during this condition can be replaced without the expenditure of a considerable amount of energy.

For instance, it is a well-known medical fact that the milk of nursing mothers who menstruate whilst suckling is seldom sufficient to nourish the infant during that period. Some mothers, in these circumstances, have to wean the infant altogether, whilst others are able to continue suckling the child by giving the child additional nourishment during their menstruation.

This might possibly counter-balance the extra demand made by the average man on the score of his greater weight and muscularity.

It is not merely a question of whether the woman can do without—there is no doubt that, if necessary, the nation as a whole could live on shorter rations than it has so far been compelled to do, but whether it could maintain its efficiency under such circumstances is another matter. It seems impossible that even if a woman working under the same conditions and on the same rations as a man, can produce the same amount of equally good work as he does, she will be able to continue to do so on less nourishment than is granted to him.

2.—The Adolescent Girl.

Under the present scheme boys of thirteen—eighteen years are allowed an extra ration while girls are not. No reason has been given for this difference, but it corresponds fairly closely to the ages during which, according to the tables of weights at present available, boys increase in weight more rapidly than girls, and, therefore, suggests the possibility that the ration has been granted on this basis. If so, it hardly appears to be justified. In the first place the average weight of girls below the age of thirteen years is higher than that of boys. If the extra ration of boys over thirteen years is given on the basis of the higher average weight of boys at that age, it would seem only fair that girls below that age should receive an additional ration above that of boys for the same reason.

On the other hand, it is doubtful whether weight is the sole test which should guide the authorities in rationing the adolescent, any more than it should be the sole test in mature age.

It is found on investigation that the average weight of girls begins to fall below that of boys at the onset of adolescence with the development of the uterus and onset of menstruation, a loss of energy which has no parallel in the male. At the same age girls show other evidences of a marked tendency to physical strain, such as lateral curvature. It is more than possible, therefore, that the diminution in the rate of growth of the girl is evidence not indeed of a decreased need on her part for nourishment, but of its very opposite: an increased strain and loss of energy demanding even more nourishment than her brother.

This principle is acted on universally in disease—it is to the patients suffering from wasting diseases, such as phthisis, cancer, and diabetes, that extra rations are allowed. Although the objection may be raised that a parallel cannot be fairly drawn between disease and a normal process, it is doubtful whether such an objection would be valid, as the nutritional problem underlying the two cases is fundamentally the same—namely, as to whether a decrease in growth or even an actual diminution in weight is an indication that the body needs more or less nourishment than a normal one.

In confirmation of this, it is interesting to note that Professor Bowditch, Harvard, made careful investigation into the growth of children, and, although the results of his work were published in 1877, his book still remains a classic on the subject.

In this connection he says on page 283, second paragraph :—

"This difference in the age at which the rate of growth attains its maximum in the two sexes, suggests a connection of the phenomenon with the period of puberty which presents a similar difference in the time of its occurrence. On the principle clearly enunciated by Carpenter and H. Spencer that growth and reproduction are, to some extent, antagonistic processes, it may perhaps reasonably be supposed that the age at which the organism becomes potentially reproductive will not be a period of excessive growth and an examination of the data at our disposal seems to show that this is the case."

3.—Rations of the Expectant Mother.*

Another curious omission from those granted extra rations is the expectant mother, whose body has to supply the necessary nourishment not only for herself, but also for the baby developing in her womb. Many of these women have also to do a considerable amount of manual labour, such as the weekly washing, floor-scrubbing, &c., and yet, with all these demands upon them, their allowance of food is less than that of a growing boy.

It seems difficult to realise that the extra allowance is granted to the woman feeding the child when once it is born if none is required with which to feed the same child a few weeks earlier.

Moreover, the pregnant woman has the extra muscular burden of carrying the child and also the nervous strain of realising that labour is imminent.

From the above considerations, the denial of equal rations to women who are doing the same or equally hard work as men, seems to have been carried through without sufficient data to justify it. Unless or until it has been much more definitely proved than at present what rations women under these various conditions really need, it seems a hazardous experiment to make equal demands on the women with the men while granting them less food, as it may seriously impair their efficiency and, through them, the national stamina.

*[Since this paper was written we understand that the case of the expectant mother is receiving attention on the part of the authorities.]

The writer wishes to record her gratitude to Dr. Winifred Cullis, Reader in Physiology to the Women's Medical School, London, for helping with the physiological information, and also to her assistant, Mrs. Terry, B.Sc., for valuable tables.

Wanted, an Interpreter.

There is something almost maternal in the way in which Suffragists watch the halting footsteps of women in more backward countries along the dusty paths we know so well. We can often interpret for them their own conditions, and the meaning of those first inarticulate stirrings of which they themselves are barely conscious. Nothing—not even our own unfinished business—is of deeper interest to us.

To those who like to put their finger in this sense on the pulse of other lands, Syria at this moment presents, in its women, a situation worth studying. The war has seized them in its ruthless current, and Syrian women, still in their ancestral fetters, with no one to interpret for them, blindly, unconsciously, are being driven to take their first little halting steps towards emancipation, with no notion of the pitfalls beside their path, or of whither that path may lead!

No European can gauge the significance of the hour for the women of the near East. From ancestral times, the very birth of a girl has been calamitous, since, till she can be got rid of by marriage, custom and religion have decreed that she shall be a mill stone round the neck of her male relations. She cannot work, she cannot even shop for herself. Some man must always, not only provide, but bring her the necessities of life. She is always some man's responsibility, and, however old, at some man's disposal. Marriage, till quite lately, has been her sole profession, and love, as we understand it between man and woman, has been an utterly unknown quantity to her.

But in pre-war days, and within the present generation, here and there the prejudices of the unfanatical Moslems were beginning to be broken down by European influence. European schools and hospitals, always open to women, and staffed by women, gradually found favour. In the Edinburgh Hospital at Nazareth, Syrian Christian women actually nursed men, though, as a rule, a Syrian nurse was employed on the women's side. But some idea of the difficulties encountered can be gathered from the fact that neither teachers nor nurses could shop for themselves, or even go through the market alone, unless attended by some trusted man, or gain any sort of training unless they could be lodged as well.

These changes involved no loosening of moral fibre on the part of the male protectors. True, they had permitted them in order to relieve themselves of a tremendous burden, but they quickly perceived that this little ghost of "economic independence" was of advantage to the girls themselves, for their earnings caused them to be more readily snapped up as brides.

Then came the war, pole-axing all progress at a blow. Europeans can conceive the effect on the Syrian home of the calling-up in one day of all men from sixteen to sixty! "The pillar of the house is taken by the Sultan! From where shall we live?" was the bitter cry from Dan to Beersheba. Terror of the known, and the unknown, of the dreadful present, and the still more dreadful future, filled every heart. Certain starvation was the least of the horrors, for the appearance of order under the corruption of Turkish rule was swiftly replaced by lawlessness under the guise of military law. Hordes of soldiers were forced by their own evil conditions to live upon the people, and the women, starving, desperate, and helpless, went in daily fear of nameless barbarities. Letters now coming in from Syria repeat to monotony the words "Dead," "Starved," "Died of Starvation."

Yet it is a cold blooded truth that after the devastation of

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modern warfare, the next generation of women acquire status. It was so in America after the civil war, in France, after 1870, and is proving itself true in England since 1914.

When, following up the Allied advance, the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund workers appeared upon the scene, they found scores of thousands of destitute women "who must be fed and for whom there is no work." Just here is the point of interest for the Suffragist. These women had lost their protectors, and, as soon as military exigencies allowed, the Relief workers opened trade schools, in which girls and women will be "taught to protect themselves!" The demand for work is so great that we hear of 800 turned away in one place for lack of material.

Syrian women to-day, therefore, are standing at the parting of the ways. Their faces are already turned in our direction. They have their hands on the key to the woman's question—economic independence, although they are unaware of it. Doors are opening before them which were shut and barred before. Dignity and respect and status may be theirs, if they can be wisely guided.

Can we look otherwise than "maternally" on these women? No Westerners have ever trodden underfoot such intensity of prejudice as have these poor, dark-eyed pioneers of an industrial future, driven forward by the bitter winds of destiny. Who will guide their steps? Who will safeguard them against those evils from which we failed to guard our own women in industry? Who will interpret them to themselves?

A PLEA FOR THE OLDER WOMAN WORKER.

One scarcely ever picks up a paper nowadays without reading therein a paragraph or an allusion to the great need for women workers at present existing, which need is greatly emphasised by the additional drain which the present offensive is making on the surviving man power of the nation. Women are wanted for the W.A.A.C., W.R.N.S., the "Penguins," the Land Army, in addition to the many posts for which it is found increasingly difficult to get workers in the many Government offices.

This being the case, one wonders more and more why there still seems such a rooted objection to taking women over a certain age. Just as before the war, the majority of men were considered "too old at forty," and would be so now if it were not that urgent necessity compels their being made use of, so practically every employer wants his female labour to be within what is roughly the best twelve years of a woman's life—*i.e.*, from eighteen to thirty. After thirty, or at least thirty-five, he deems that women workers are "not much good," whereas they are often of far greater use than the younger ones, who, however well-intentioned they may be, have not the steadiness and experience of the older women.

With regard to the W.A.A.C. and kindred bodies, one can, of course, quite realise the placing of the age limit in these cases. It is doubtless placed with the underlying idea that after thirty-five, or at most, forty, the average woman lacks the capacity for easily adapting herself to new surroundings and new circumstances. This is, therefore, understood, and quite credible.

On the other hand, as regards routine office work, many a woman at fifty is far better than she was at forty. The work is not such as makes a heavy demand on physical strength and mentally an educated woman of fifty is often perfectly fit and more capable than the girl of eighteen. There are hundreds of women in England, even in London alone, who would be willing to work if they could find anyone willing to take them, but such people are not forthcoming. The writer knows personally of a woman of fifty, strong enough and capable enough for an ordinary clerical post, who has sought in vain for work.

If only employers would realise this, we should not be hearing so many complaints as to the shortage of labour, for if the older women were taken to fill the easier, lighter posts held by many girls, these would be free to fill the vacancies in those spheres of labour where it is essential, owing to varying circumstances, that the workers should be sufficiently young to be adaptable to every different condition.

K. M. TEHAN.

Obituary.

A PIONEER OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE: MISS LETITIA WALKINGTON, M.A., LL.D.

On Wednesday, May 29th, there passed away in Belfast one of the pioneers of Irish feminism, Miss Letitia Walkington. After a brilliant career at the University, during which, among other distinctions, she gained the degree of LL.D., being the first woman in Ireland to do so, she devoted herself to work for the welfare of women and children. She was a member of the first Suffrage Society formed in Belfast in 1901, a branch of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, and when this ceased to exist, joined the Irish Women's Suffrage Society in 1908. In 1912 Dr. Walkington and Miss Montgomery founded the Belfast Women's Suffrage Society. For some time she acted as co-Secretary, becoming Vice-President on taking up the duties of Hon. Secretary of the Beltast Branch of the Church League for Woman Suffrage. She was also one of the originators of the Irish Women's Suffrage Federation, which has been the means of forming new societies and organising Suffrage work throughout the country. In February of the present year the Belfast Suffrage Society became the Women's Political League, and Dr. Walkington retained her position as Vice-President, and was closely associated with the new work opening up for the enfranchised women. Just before the end came, she had undertaken the formation of a Women Voters' Union among the working women of the city, and had been very largely successful in arousing interest. Dr. Walkington worked and fought for the higher education of women, and for their political enfranchisement. When this was at length won, she immediately took up the new work of organisation. Such a life is an example to those who come after, and whose lot it is to reap where she and others like her have sown.

At a meeting of members of the Women's Political League on Friday, May 31st, the following resolution was carried in silence:—"That this meeting of members of the Women's Political League desires to express profound admiration of the untiring and devoted life-work of the late Dr. Walkington, Vice-President of the League, for all causes affecting women and children; and most sincere sorrow on her death. The meeting deplores the great loss the League has sustained, and wishes to convey to her relatives most sincere sympathy in their great sorrow."

MISS NORA MARSHALL.

The North Berkshire Society has sustained a very heavy loss this last week in the tragic death of its Secretary, Miss Nora Marshall, who was accidentally drowned in the river Thames while, it is believed, rescuing her little dog from the water. Her cheerful energy and personal popularity were invaluable to her Society, for Miss Marshall was an enthusiast for the cause of Women's Suffrage when enthusiasm was neither common, nor as fashionable as it is now. One reason why she possessed such deep influence in her own neighbourhood was the fact that with her, one great interest was never allowed to exclude other interests. On the contrary, it would be difficult to think of any local philanthropic or social movement in which she was not a prominent figure.

Success in this life may perhaps most truly be gauged by the sense of loss and the blank one leaves behind, and in this case the sense of loss is not one felt merely by relatives and friends but shared by all who have worked with Miss Marshall both in her own neighbourhood and in a wider circle.

Reviews.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE. By Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. (P. S. King & Son, 6d. net.)

We have received from the Women's Industrial Council a pamphlet on Industrial Fatigue and the relations between the hours of work and the output, with a Memorandum on Sickness drawn up by Lord Bentinck, who made enquiries with the help of the Council. The subject is of great and pressing interest at the present time, and some new lights have been thrown on it by investigations made during the war. The pamphlet before us draws on some standard authorities, *i.e.*, the second Interim Report on an Investigation of Industrial Fatigue by Physiological Methods made by Professor Kent under the auspices of the Home Office, in 1916, and the reports of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee on Industrial Efficiency and Fatigue. Last year the Munition Workers' Committee reported that the maximum hours of labour which could be profitably worked by men were sixty-five to sixty-seven per week, while women could not profitably work more than sixty. In a further memorandum they have issued recently they say that they now feel strongly that these hours should be reduced, but they have not recommended any fixed scale.

Experiments on the relation between hours and output began long before the war. As early as 1843 enquiries into the employment of children in cloth-print works showed that long hours resulted in deteriorated output. In later years, a long series of reports from factory inspectors furnished further evidence. In 1894 the hours of labour of about 43,000 people in Government factories and workshops were reduced to forty-eight hours per week, and in 1905 the War Office published the results of the eleven years' experiment. These were all good. There was a saving of time from greater promptness among the workers, a greater regularity of attendance, and the men were in better physical condition, and consequently more capable, so that their average earnings had not fallen, and it had not been found necessary to increase the number of day workers. The Admiralty also issued a favourable report.

Considering the results of these experiments, it seems extraordinary that employers should have carried on such a long fight against the forty-eight-hour week. It is even more extraordinary to consider that when the pressure of war made it necessary for the national existence that every worker should do the most efficient work possible, the hours were lengthened instead of shortened. But it is pointed out in the pamphlet that this was probably because everybody hoped that the war might be over in a few months, and it was thought that work could be done at great pressure for a short spell. It is obvious, however, that now that the war has gone on for nearly four years without any end being in view, the whole question must be reconsidered; experiments in the output resulting from shorter hours, such as those quoted in this pamphlet are, therefore, of the greatest importance. They are of special interest to women, because in many trades, women are new workers, and it remains to be discovered in what conditions they can do their best work. So far, all the enquiries made seem to show that a great shortening of hours and improvement in the conditions might be made without diminishing the output, and that it would be an advantage, not only from the human but from the industrial point of view. But it will probably be some time before either employers or workers are really convinced of this fact. The employers, as their pre

war struggle against the eight-hours day shows, are hard to reason with; and though it is probable that no worker wants to do long hours for the sheer joy of being tired out, anxiety about wages, especially in the case of piece-workers, causes a difficulty in trying the experiment of shorter hours. The scale of hours by which the best results can be obtained varies, of course, in different employments, and will only be ascertained by experiments carried on with open-minded co-operation between employers and workers.

There are some interesting appendices to the pamphlet giving experiments in typical cases, and it should be studied by women workers, and especially by those who have to organise women's work.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN. June. (1s.)

The June number of the Englishwoman opens with an excellent article on Woman Power, by Miss Lowndes. Monsieur Emile Cammaerts writes of "What Women are Doing in Belgium," while Miss Gertrude Powicke gives a sketch of the daily lives of some Belgian refugees. There is a valuable article on "Village Women and Cottage Housing," by F. G. Hamilton, and an amusing one on libraries by G. D. Cummins; and there are a good many other very readable contributions.

THE MUSIC STUDENT. (6d.)

The May issue of this magazine is entirely devoted to women's work in music, and contains several interesting and informing articles, notably one by Miss Katharine Eggar on *The Creative Spirit in Women's Music*. The whole issue is well worth studying by all who love music and who wish to know the work done in that respect by the newly-enfranchised sex.

NEW WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION LEAFLET. Published by N.U.W.S.S.

Societies and Women Citizens' Associations will be glad to learn that the new recruiting leaflet: "Ten reasons for forming a Women Citizens' Association" is now on sale. It will be found invaluable in increasing the membership of Associations, and will appeal to all types of persons. Early orders are advised. Price 1s. 6d. per 100. Postage 2½d.

Correspondence.

SALARIES OF HOSPITAL SURGEONS.

MADAM,—Will you very kindly allow me to thank your corrrespondent for his championship of women resident medical officers of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, but, while grateful to him for his good intentions and fully recognising his motives, may I assure him that, in this particular instance, there is no need of any champion.

I should have thought that the very name of the hospital, to say nothing of its traditions, would have been sufficient guarantee against any charge of injustice to women.

Before the war, most of the London hospitals regarded, and still regard, the experience gained as sufficient return for the services of the resident physicians or surgeons, whether men or women.

I think I am right in saying that the E.G.A. Hospital was one of the first to pay its resident staff any honorarium at all.

Resident posts in hospitals are looked upon by the medical profession generally in somewhat the same light as apprenticeships or an advanced stage in the training of doctor, and, as such, are valued by the newly-qualified men or women who hold them. The resident posts in this hospital are reserved for women, otherwise I have no doubt that many men would only too gladly avail themselves of such first-class opportunities of learning their work, whether any honorarium were offered or not.

The value of a resident post depends only secondarily upon the honorarium and many old resident medical officers of this hospital will agree with me in saying that the training and experience gained while holding these posts are among the best investments they have ever made. I have no reason to suppose that, once the present urgent needs of endowment, upkeep, and enlargement are met, the hospital authorities would refuse to accept donations especially given for the increase of the salaries of their staff.

In the meantime the hospital and this question in particular will bear, and, indeed, welcomes, the closest scrutiny even from such convinced feminists as Mr. Knight and

SYBIL PRATT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
House Physician, Eliz. Garrett Anderson Hospital, 144, Euston Road, N.1.

ENDOWMENT OF MATERNITY.

MADAM,—It would show a lack of the sense of proportion on my part to continue this correspondence, under present conditions, for the sake of argument. I will, therefore, be very brief, and refrain from expressing any general views on justice as applied to wages. What I complain of, Madam, is that instead of giving me the plain answer to the plain question I asked for, *you* gave *me* general views. With all respect and courtesy, therefore, may I ask again. Does THE COMMON CAUSE advocate a flat rate of maternity-benefit or a rate graduated according to social status? To ask this question is not to oppose or attack the principle of equal wages advocated constantly in your paper. Let me say simply: I do not oppose it. But I want to know how it will work; and I begin to wonder if some of its advocates know any better than I do myself.

EMMA COMMON.

[*We have not advocated any form of maternity benefit. We have however, offered a platform for the discussion of this very important subject in signed articles and letters.*—ED., THE COMMON CAUSE.]

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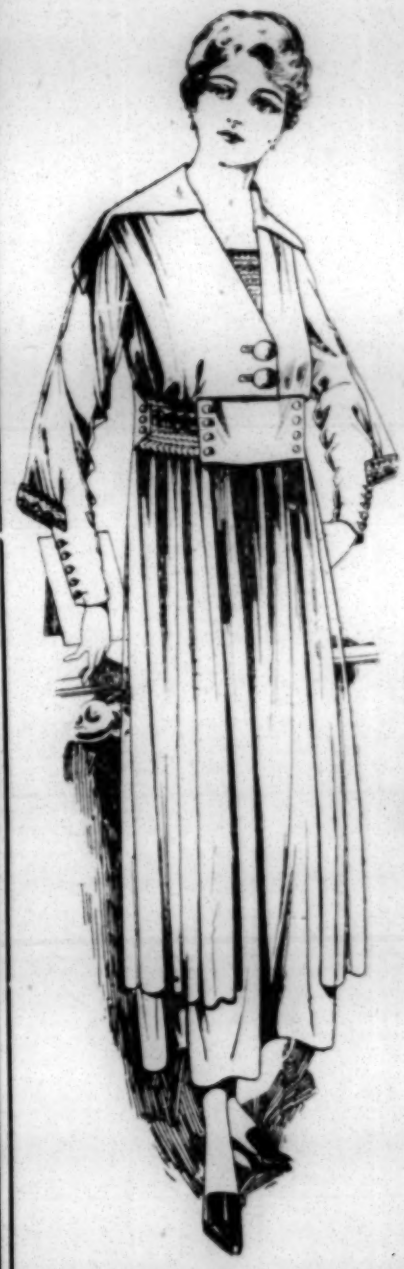

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Reports.

A DAY IN MEMORY OF DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

Many of those who serve Serbia and the Scottish Women were gathered together in Edinburgh last week on the occasion of the presentation of Mestrovic's bust of Dr. Elsie Inglis to the Scottish people. It took place on Monday, May 27th, in the Royal Scottish Academy, the classic building at the foot of the Castle Rock. Steps and corridor were lined by a guard of honour composed of S.W.H. members in uniform, and the fifty resident Serbian boys. Prince George of Serbia, the Minister Plenipotentiary and Mme. Jovanovic, the Military Attaché, and the Secretary of the Legation passed through to the platform placed beside the veiled bust. The Lord Provost, Miss Mair, the Secretary for Scotland, Mrs. Hunter, Miss Kemp, and Dr. Wallace Williamson were also on the platform. The saloon was filled with a large and interested audience, the front row of the seats being reserved for relatives, the High Command, the representatives of the London Units, and H.Q. Committee.

The London Units were as fully represented as the unavoidably short notice would allow. Lady Frances Balfour, the Treasurer, the Vice-Chairman, and the Hon. Secretary attended.

The scene was full of colour. Before the copper-coloured veiling, and afterwards, the deep bronze of the bust, lay the richly-enamelled Scottish Orders placed in front of it—the blue, gold and red of the Order of S. Sava, and the delicate silver and white of the Order of the White Eagle. Uniforms were gay; the Prince and his following were in full military uniform, the Lord Provost wore his golden chain, all of us who could do so wore S.W.H. uniform and the tartan, and the Academicians were in Venetian red silk and velvet from head to foot, with gowns of a red purple.

The ceremony opened with prayer, and speeches followed. After a few words from Miss Mair, Prince George delivered the bust to the people of Scotland, unveiling it before those present. His Highness, speaking in French, asked the Secretary for Scotland to receive this work of their best sculptor, representing an admirable daughter of Scotland, the benefactress of Serbia. It was to be a mark of gratitude for the past, and a guarantee for the future of an international friendship founded by the immortal Dr. Inglis. He expressed the sympathy and admiration of the Serbian people.

The Secretary for Scotland (Right Hon. R. Munro) accepted the bust for his nation with gratitude to the Serbian Government for their kindly thought prompting this gift, and appreciation of the skill and distinction with which that thought had materialised. He thanked the Serbians for their presence, and enlarged on the sympathy between Serbian and Scottish people, their union in a common danger, cemented and consecrated by the loving services of her whom they were met to honour. All present knew her career, in surgery her alleviation of suffering, in politics her devotion to securing the franchise, since obtained. Then, during the war, her matchless heroism, battling in Serbia against disease and death. He narrated her capture and release, not to rest but to raise help at home till her next enterprise in Russia and Roumania. No one could yet appraise her labours there, or realise the perils she encountered, and when she returned home it was to die. Sculpture was, in a sense, not needed to commemorate her, she was enshrined in all our hearts. "A succourer of many," the lustre of her memory was unfading. In fearlessness, chivalry, and energy, her life was given to service, her death was a sacrament. Future generations would draw inspiration from her noble example.

During the lesser speeches which followed, all eyes were fixed on the bronze. It is a work of art, and represents a noble head seen by faith and through the temperament of a great sculptor. Those who seek for our Doctor's immediate self will find symbolism and not portraiture. They will notice characteristics of her family, and especially of a sister. The clan is there, not the individual. Her own features are only portrayed in part, in a dignity of pensive repose. The prominence of forehead is there, but none of its height or width, neither any squareness of jaw or shoulder; the hand is left in block. Like all great work it grows on one with further acquaintance. It is as a poem translated into a foreign language which lends disguise, but it is still ours in part.

Sir John Findlay, speaking for the trustees, accepted the custody of the bust, and enlarged on Serbian appreciation of sculpture as an example to Scotland.

His Excellency the Minister expressed, in French, his admiration for Dr. Inglis's devoted work, and his secretary read, in English, his statement, eloquently grateful for the help of the Scotswomen who, in Serbia's hour of danger, had both lived and died for Serbia. It went on to describe the Scottish characteristics shown in Mestrovic's bust, and anticipated reverent care for Scottish graves in Serbia.

After Miss Mair had thanked the R.S.A. Council, for whom Mr. Wingate responded, and the Lord Provost had thanked the Prince, who gracefully replied, the Serbian youths sang their national anthem, and the proceedings ended. Some of us adjourned to Serbian pictures and tea at the New Gallery.

The Serbians had placed flowers on the grave in the morning and had visited the Serbian boys in the Heriot school. They were now taken round Edinburgh before their return to London, and so ended our Serbian day.

Hilda Flinders Petrie,
Hon. Secretary, London Units, S.W.H.

NATIONAL WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

The National Women Citizens' Association held a very interesting meeting at the Caxton Hall on May 31st.

These Associations have been initiated by a Joint Committee, elected in 1917, by a large number of women's organisations of which the N.U.W.S.S. was one. The scheme under which they work is the one described as *Scheme Y* at the N.U.W.S.S. Council. The names of the Joint Committee are as follows:—Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S. (President); Mrs. Percy Abbott; The Lady Betty Balfour; Miss Mary Beeton, M.A.; Lady Campbell; Miss Cleghorn, M.A.; Mrs. Boyd Dawson; Miss Lilian Dawson; Miss E. C. Harvey; Miss Hessel; Miss Kilgour, M.A.; Mrs. Macrosty; Miss M. Cecile Matheson; Miss C. Scott Moncrieff; Mrs. George Morgan; Mrs. Walter Rea; Mrs. Oliver Strachey; Miss Constance Tite.

The Secretary is Miss Helena Normanton and the offices are at Grosvenor Mansions, 82, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.

The Mayor of Westminster was in the Chair.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, President of the N.U.W.W., said that the great question of reconstruction being before us all, we must make up our minds to reconstruct society on better lines. The scheme of Women Citizens' Associations was to be carried out on a national scale, and many societies had combined to form a joint Committee to draw up the scheme. Thirty-six Women Citizens' Associations were already started, and sixteen were about to be formed. The idea was not only to form Women Citizens' Associations in towns but in rural districts. Mobility of thought was what the National Women Citizens' Associations wanted to arrive at—an exchange of thought between town and country districts. Women all through the land were members of one or another. It was most important for women to take part in Local Government. The laws might often be in need of improvement, but if the administration were good, it not only made a great difference to the effect of the laws, but sometimes succeeded in getting them modified. Women should go on Local Councils, then they could consult with the Women Citizens' Associations, as could the men Councillors also, and exchange ideas. Women Citizens' Associations were to be non-party, and to provide opportunities for the free expression of all views.

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., said that he was not one of those who believed that women had only shown themselves fit for the vote by their war-work. (Applause.) They had proved their fitness long before, and the war had merely provided an opportunity for people diplomatically to get out of a difficulty. Nothing, said Mr. Thomas, was worse than an ignorant electorate; therefore, any Association such as this was good. There were three and a quarter million women now in industry who had not been before. Things were going to be very difficult, and it was essential for women to face the problems and help to settle them.

Miss Clapham described the Leicester W.C.A.

Miss Conway, President of the N.U.T., said that her Union heartily supported the N.W.C.A.; through which they would be given a chance of meeting the mothers of the children they taught and discussing views.

The Rt. Hon. Sir W. Dickinson, M.P., thought that it was most important that women should be induced to stand as candidates for local authorities. We were apt to forget how very important these bodies were in all our lives. He said, further, that one must not be too hard on the party machine. Machinery and organisation were essential; without good organisation no good work could be done.

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Headquarter Notes.

Changes in Staff.

Mrs. F. W. Hubback is now installed as Secretary of the combined Information Bureau and Parliamentary Department. The extended objects of the Union, the starting of Bureaux by several of our larger Societies, and the enquiries in connection with the work of the Societies and of Women Citizens' Associations make the development of this department necessary, and various plans are under discussion.

Miss G. W. Evans, who has worked with the Union since May, 1912, and has been Secretary of the Parliamentary Department for the last few years, has become General Secretary, a post in which her intimate knowledge of the Union will be invaluable.

Miss Price has become an Organiser after doing valuable work as Assistant Secretary for two years, and Miss Austin has taken her place.

Miss I. M. Ferguson has taken charge of the Press Department and is Secretary to the Literature Committee.

Societies or individuals wishing to have samples of literature published by the N.U.W.S.S. sent them can do so by paying 3s. 6d. per annum to the Literature Department.

New Zealand Clothing.

The first case to arrive this year was one which had been despatched from Auckland in November, 1915. Although it had been over two years on the voyage the little garments were as dainty and fresh as when they were packed. To many were attached pretty notes from little makers, who, doubtless, after the first excitement and pleasure of sending their gift to an English soldier's baby, have by now forgotten to wonder what little child was wearing it. Mrs. Alys Russell, who has kindly undertaken the unpacking and distribution of the clothing, at the St. Pancras School for Mothers, now that accommodation in our new premises will not allow of this, sent each of these small writers a picture postcard of the late Professor and Mrs. Fawcett, and told them that their gifts had, after a two years' journey, safely arrived.

Another case, which has arrived this month, was from the Wellington War Orphans' Guild, and was sent off, per troopship, in November, 1916. We had given up these cases as lost, and it is cheering to find them eventually arriving. Other cases of beautiful and much needed garments have been received from Hastings, Motueka, "Keep-On League," Napier, Taihape, Timaru, and Waipukurau. The contents have been distributed to various maternity centres, Regimental Dependents' Committees, and other institutions, where they have been greatly appreciated.

Editorial.

It is a great satisfaction that the increase we have been forced to make in the price of THE COMMON CAUSE has been so kindly received by our subscribers, many of whom have written to say that they feel the paper is well worth the higher price. We are dismayed, however, to find that a few (luckily only a very few!) people and institutions think that they do not need THE COMMON CAUSE, because we have got the vote. Now, when in many directions those opportunities for which we have long striven have opened out before women; now when, in other directions, we have at last a good fighting chance of removing the disabilities which still weigh heavily upon us; now when knowledge, co-operation, interchange of ideas, are so much more necessary to us even than they were before, now is the time to *begin* reading a feminist paper, if one has never done so before. It is decidedly not the time to leave off taking one in!

We ask all our readers who can do so, to do some propaganda for the paper, and to help to make it known among new circles of people. We ask all who have not already done so to contribute to the £2,000 fund which will enable us to make the paper more widely known. We earnestly thank those who have already helped us with gifts, and those who are helping us from day to day by gaining fresh subscribers for THE COMMON CAUSE.

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"Studington" Coat received to-day. It is both smart, useful, and eminently satisfactory.—Miss R. A.
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	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to May 16th, 1918	314,749	2	1
Further donations received to May 23rd, 1918:—			
*Balance of amount collected in Blackburn District, as result of appeal organised by Miss Irene Curwen, per H. T. Thomas, Esq., Local Treas., S.W.H., Blackburn	373	1	10
*Collected by Mrs. Moncrieff, to continue 2 "Kilsyth and District" Beds (Royaumont and Salonica)	100	0	0
*Per The Manager, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Toronto, per Miss Kathleen Burke, for maintenance of the "Madge Fraser" Ambulance with the Serbian Unit ...	200	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
*"West Kilbride"	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson, Kilmarnock: *Employees, Messrs. Portland Forge Co. Ltd. ...	1	17	2
*Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser, S.W.H.: Firm and Employees, Messrs. Menzies & Co., Shipbuilders, Leith, per D. M. Urquhart, Esq., to name "Menzies & Co., Ship Repairers, Leith" Bed (Royaumont) (£25 10s. 6d.), Employees, The North British Steel Foundry Ltd., Bathgate, per Alex. MacRae, Esq., Sec. (£12 4s.), *Leith Domestic Servants' Association, per Mrs. Nicolson, Hon. Sec. (£6 10s.), *Employees, Messrs. Thomson & Porteous, Edinburgh (£3 13s.), Employees, Messrs. Peebles & Co. Ltd., Edinburgh (£2 5s. 6d.), *Employees, Messrs. MacTaggart Scott & Co., Loanhead, per J. Laurie, Esq. (£1 18s. 2d.)...	52	1	2
*"Hongkong War Charities Fund," per H. G. Sandford, Esq., Hon. Treas.	23	12	10
*Birkenhead W.S.S., per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., to continue "Birkenhead" Bed (Royaumont)	3	14	8
*The Misses Wishart, Kirkcaldy, to continue "Entente" Bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
*Per Mrs. Aldridge, Organiser, S.W.H. (Serbia): Directors and Members of Staff and Employees, Messrs. Edgar Allen & Co. Ltd., Sheffield (£50), Mrs. Reid, Sheffield—Concert arranged by Mrs. Reid on behalf of the Serbian Work of the S.W.H. on Friday, April 26th (£9 14s.)...	59	14	0
*Birmingham Burns Club, per Robt. MacKenzie, Esq., Hon. Treas.: Result of Flag Day Collections made on the 13th ult. for the establishing of a "Birmingham Section" in the "Elsie Inglis" Hospital (Sallanches) (1st instalment) (£1,500), To continue the 3 "Birmingham Burns Club" Beds (Royaumont, Salonica, and America Unit) (£75)	1,575	0	0
*Employees, Messrs. Thomas Black & Co., Greenock ...	2	0	0
Less remitted to London Committee, specially earmarked donation, per Miss Kathleen Burke	200	0	0
Forward as per list to May 23rd, 1918	316,996	3	9
Further donations as at May 29th, 1918:—			
*Miss Hill	5	0	0
*Pupils, Ardgowan School, Greenock, per Jas. Hutchison, Esq., Headmaster, for upkeep of School Bed (Corsica)	1	0	0
*Mrs. I. E. Chetwynd Inglis, Abbaye de Royaumont, per the Assistant Manager, Lloyd's Bank, Ltd., Lombard-street, London, to endow "Sheila and Loraine" Bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
*Falkirk W.S.S., per Miss Belle Moir, Hon. Treas., to continue "Falkirk Iron Co." Bed (Salonica)	25	0	0
*Collected from Members of the Bungreave Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Sheffield, per Mrs. Aldridge, Organiser, S.W.H. (Serbia)...		8	0
*Pupils of "Pupil Teachers' Centre," Birmingham, per Miss L. E. Bowler, Principal, per R. A. Berry, Esq.	1	18	0
*Per Miss Rachel Jamieson, Organiser, S.W.H.: *Women Clerks, Accountants, G.P.O. Office, Edinburgh, per Miss Sutherland (£2 5s.), Pupils of Avonbridge School, per Robt. Duncan, Esq. (£2 2s.), Messrs. J. Walker & Sons, Caledonian Engine Works, Dundee-street, Edinburgh (£2 2s.)	6	9	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees, Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (89th contribution)	2	10	9
*Mr. & Mrs. Houison Ross (£10), Miss Ross (£5)	15	0	0
*Per Mrs. Young, to continue "Trinity Heroes" Bed (Royaumont): Lady Murray (£2 2s.), Mrs. Thomson (£2), Mr. & Mrs. Brickman (£1 1s.)	5	3	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., Greenock: Result of Appeal made by Miss Etta Shankland, in Kilmarnock, for "Kilmarnock & District" Section, in the "Elsie Inglis" Hospital (Sallanches) (£1,534 7s. 7d.), *Less* advertising, printing, stationery, postage, etc. (£16 6s. 10d.), In hand for unpaid expenses (£12 13s 2d.) (£1,505 7s. 7d.), (Already received from Kilmarnock & district, from the Kilmarnock Schools, to name "Kilmarnock Children's Cot" in the Serbian Hospital (£59 1s.), Penny a Week Collection in Greenock (50th-58th, for Greenock Ambulance, Serbs) (£80 6s. 1d.), *One-third Nett Proceeds Colonel Collins' Lecture in Town Hall, Greenock (Greenock Section, Sallanches) (£45), *Firm and Workmen, Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., Port-Glasgow, 49th-51st donations, for upkeep of "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" Bed (Sallanches) (£6 0s. 5d.), *Messrs. Hally & Co., Auchterarder—Sale of Waste Paper Tubes—for upkeep of "Hally & Co. Auchterarder" Bed (Sallanches) (£5 18s. 2d.) *Employees, Messrs. Thos. Black & Co., Greenock (Greenock Ambulance for Serbs) (£2), *Employees, Messrs. Seedhill Finishing Co., Paisley, per R. Benson, Esq., (Serbia) (£1), Mrs. Wingate (Greenock Ambulance, Serbs.) (10s.), Richard Ward, Esq. (Greenock Ambulance, Serbs.) (5s.) ...	1,646	7	3
*The Misses Anderson	2	0	0
*Mrs. Nesbitt, per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S. (Royaumont)	1	1	0
*Anonymous		10	0
	£318,758	10	9

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Names of Beds.	*Donors.*
"Sheila and Loraine" (Royaumont, 1 year)	Mrs. I. E. Chetwynd Inglis, Royaumont.
"Falkirk Iron Co." (Salonica, further 6 months)	Per Miss Belle Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S.
"Saxone, Kilmarnock" (Sallanches, 1 year)	Various amounts received from the Saxone Shoe Co.
"Greenock Girl Guides" (Salonica, further 6 months)	Per Miss Etta Shankland and Captain Ferguson (Greenock Girl Guides, No. 1 Co.)
Kilmarnock and District Section: "Templeton" (1 year), "Archibald Finnie" (1 year), "Margaret Monteath" (1 year), "Betty Clark" (1 year), "Thorneycroft" (1 year), "Rose Mackie" (1 year), "Carnell" (1 year), "Munbo" (1 year), "Skeldon" (1 year), "Johnnie Walker" (1 year)	Per Miss Etta Shankland.

Reports from Societies

HITCHIN, STEVENAGE AND DISTRICT.—The annual meeting of this Society took place on May 14th at Hitchin. The Rev. P. M. Wathen, Rector of Welwyn, presided, and congratulated us upon our victory. After the adoption of report and balance sheet and the election of officers and committee had been disposed of, the two delegates to the N.U. Annual Council Meeting spoke. Mrs. Wathen gave a most interesting and lucid account of the proceedings of the Council, bringing out with great clearness the two main currents of opinion observable within the Union. She was followed by Miss Annie Villiers, who proposed a resolution to the effect that the Society should adopt as part of its work the formation of Women Citizens' Associations on a broad democratic basis and on non-party lines, and that whenever possible it should co-operate with other women's organisations in the same area. This was carried, *nem. con.* A vote of thanks to Miss Plowden, the retiring Hon. Secretary, was carried with acclamation, Miss A. Villiers being elected in her place. Mrs. Smithson was returned unopposed as Hon. Treasurer.

SEAFORTH AND WATERLOO.—On May 15th, a public meeting was held at the Waterloo War Dressings Association Depôt, Crosby Road, at 4.30 p.m. Miss Eleanor Rathbone was the speaker, and took for subject matter from her notes on the Annual Council Meeting, especially dwelling on the Aims and Methods of the Women Citizens' Association.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage; Ireland.

At the annual meeting of the Central Branch of the C.L.W.S.I., held in our offices, 24, Kildare Street, the Rev. Canon Day (V.P.) in the chair, the following new Vice-Presidents were unanimously nominated for election:—The Right Rev. the Hon. the Lord Bishop of Tuam, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Killaloe, Miss Walkington, LL.D. The Council for the ensuing year was then chosen, and, after the ordinary business and statement of accounts, Miss Alice M. Stack (Workroom Organiser) read her Report. She stated that our War Relief Work was now on a firm financial basis (though in the Church League office we run various charities and help the women). She expressed the hope that after the War this work may become a permanent industry for mothers. The Hon. Organiser (Rev. J. S. Carolin) then read his Report for the year. Good progress has been made, about 50 new members have joined. Many new resolutions relating to important social problems were forwarded from the League. The services were inspiring and well attended. The preachers were the Bishop of Killaloe, the Dean of Limerick, and the Rev. J. S. Carolin, and great thanks are due to Dr. Marchant for his kindness in presiding at the organ.

We are hoping to hold a Service of Thanksgiving and Corporate Communion for the Enfranchisement of Women, and "to dedicate to the service of God and the welfare of mankind their new powers and responsibilities. It is to be held, *D.V.*, by kind permission of the Dean, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, on May 17th, at 11 o'clock. We are holding this service in Synod Week so as to give an opportunity to our country members and sympathisers to attend, and we hope our clerical friends will come in their robes. The following have kindly promised to assist at the service:—The Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Limerick, the Dean of the Chapel Royal, the Rev. Canon Day, the Rev. Canon S. H. Kennedy, and our President, the Bishop of Limerick, who is to preach.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

JUNE 10.

Coventry—W.C.A., St. Mary's Hall—Public Meeting—Chair: The Mayoress—Speakers: Mrs. Ring, Miss Margaret Jones—Subject: "The Woman's Vote and Social Reform" (Time not yet announced).

JUNE 11.

Bristol—Forth's Rooms—Speaker: Miss Wakefield (Time not yet announced).

West Bromwich—Grove Crescent—Speaker: Mrs. Ring 4.30 p.m.

JUNE 12.

Norwood—Norwood Women's Liberal Association—Hostess: Mrs. Hubbard, 41, Chestnut Road, West Norwood—Subject: "Women's New Opportunities" 3.30 p.m.

JUNE 20.

Camberwell—People's Church, Windsor Road, Denmark Hill—Discussion Circle—Subject: "Men and Women Workers—Prospect and Remuneration"—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young—Chairman: Mr. John Osborn 7.0 p.m.

JUNE 26.

North Kensington—Raymede School, 240, Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill—Speaker: Miss Hay Cooper—Subject: "A Chat with the New Woman Voter" 3.0 p.m.

Miss Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 6 p.m. service.

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NATURAL FERTILISATION.—Dr. C. Stirling Saunder and Edgar J. Saxon (Editor of "The Healthy Life") have written a pamphlet on "The Natural Fertilisation of the Soil." The facts and conclusions set forth are of vital importance to all who realise the close connection between food and health. The price is 1d., and is obtainable, post free, for that amount (if THE COMMON CAUSE is mentioned) from The Health Centre, 41a, Margaret-st., London, W. 1.

POSITIONS VACANT.

GARDENING.—Wanted, young woman to help in market gardening work, inside and out, under lady manager; state experience if any.—A. Bateson, New Milton, Hants.

GREAT HOWARD STREET, Liverpool.—Social and Recreation Club (Mixed). Experienced Social Worker wanted as leader for above; must be woman with good organising ability and capable of initiating and developing club activities on broad lines; salary according to experience.—Apply Mrs. Mann, Hon. Secretary, 85, Huskisson-st., Liverpool.

HOUSE HELP WANTED to assist in household duties and give some attendance to elderly lady (not an invalid). Someone interested in gardening preferred. Must be fond of country life. Experience not essential.—M., Lavant Hill House, Lurgashall, Petworth, Sussex.

£150 RISING to £200.—Wanted, Woolwich Invalid Children's Association, experienced worker to take charge of case work; full responsibility for general work when needed (revised advertisement).—Application forms from Miss Grinling, Hon. Sec., 8, Thomas-st., Woolwich, must be returned by June 10th.

WANTED at once, capable Forewoman for dressmaking business in country; lodging provided; salary according to experience.—Apply Dr. Jane Walker, 122, Harley-st., W. 1, or Mrs. Samson, Vine House, Nayland, Colchester.

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[Continued on page 96.

Continued from page 95.]

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